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For over 27 years, Ohio-class ballistic missile means, or SSBNs, have been our most survivable form of deterrence. As a result of the commitment to excellence by everyone associated with the SSBN program, our strategic missile submarines have always been ready and vigilant, reassuring our allies and deterring those who might seek to do us harm. Our ballistic missile submarines provided essential deterrence during the Cold War, and their contributions will forever be a part of our Nation's history. Today, these elite submarines remain on the front lines of freedom. Through their silent patrols, they will preserve peace for many years to come.

The success of the Trident program and the protection it continues to provide is a result of the sacrifices of a broad array of organizations and individuals: the submarine industrial base, which provides the advanced technologies and highest quality equipment for these ships; the maintenance facilities and their technicians and engineers who work to a demanding timeline and under difficult constraints to keep these boats ready for sea; the submarine training facilities which ensure that our sailors are trained and ready to perform their missions under any circumstances; and not least, the sailors and their families who dedicate their lives to supporting our Nation. Their sacrifice year after year is a large part of our Nation's greatness.

Because I come from the Puget Sound region in the State of Washington, I have had the opportunity to watch the successes of the Trident submarine program from its inception. Back in 1972, the Navy decided that the Puget Sound would be the west coast home port for its newest class of strategic missile submarine, the Ohio-class submarines, the Ohio-class SSBN.

In August 1982, the lead ship, USS Ohio, arrived on the Bangor waterfront to start her operational life. Ohio was followed by seven more Trident boats, each taking up its responsibilities in this strategic defense of our Nation. Of the original 18 Trident SSBNs in the U.S. inventory, eight now call the Puget Sound their home and continue their crucial strategic deterrent role.

Additionally, after 24 years in operation, the first four SSBNs—Ohio, Michigan, Florida, and Georgia—have been converted into cruise missile submarines. Two of these platforms, Ohio and Michigan, continue their service from the Bangor submarine base in this new role. The remaining six Ohio-class SSBNs and two cruise missile submarines carry out their essential duties from the naval submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia.

It is truly fitting that we recognize the achievements of our Trident submariners and their families over the past 27 years. We look to them to continue to build upon their legacy of excellent service to the United States in the years ahead.

I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. WITTMAN, who have joined me in supporting this resolution; and I urge all of my colleagues to support it with their votes.

I would just add one thing: this is such an important program—and I have been on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee for 31 years—that we are now starting a follow-on to the Trident submarine program. And I can remember when we had great debates here in the House on whether we should do a B-2 bomber and whether we should have an MX missile. The one thing that we always understood is that the most survivable element of our strategic triad were these Trident submarines, and I commend Admiral Rickover and all of those who followed him for the great work that they did in inspiring these concepts, and it has been of great value to our country.

So I appreciate the gentleman from North Carolina yielding to me, and I appreciate you bringing this resolution to the floor. And I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it. Thank you.

Mr. KISSELL. I would like to, at this point in time, thank my colleagues from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and from Washington (Mr. DICKS) for their words about this resolution, the importance of this resolution.

This branch of service in the Navy, to the crews of the 14, these Ohio-class submarines, we offer our appreciation and thanks to the people that make it work, all of the listings of people that were given, but especially to the friends and the families of these crew members that, without them and their support for these crews, it would make this work extremely much harder than what it is already during the times of separation and trials that exist upon the families.

This branch of service remains strong. It is a clear deterrent to threats that our Nation may incur. We once again congratulate this branch of service on its 1,000th mission of deterrence and 1,000th successful mission.

I reserve my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank again Mr. DICKS from the State of Washington and his leadership and his vision especially as we progress from the Ohio-class of submarine to the next generation. He is certainly right, the Ohio-class has been an integral part of the triad of the defense of this Nation. It is critically important that we plan now for the next generation of submarine that will eventually replace the Ohio-class.

And I applaud his vision, his leadership in recognizing the importance of the Ohio-class but also the efforts that make sure that we have that next class that provides for the defense of this Nation.

And I'd like to thank Mr. KISSELL, too, for his leadership and his recognition of the importance of the Ohio-class submarine and also the impor-

tance of the next class of the replacement for the Ohio-class for the future defense of this Nation.

With that, Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back my time.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, at this point in time I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to join in voting "aye" on H. Con. Res. 129 to honor the Navy once again and the sailors in the Ohio-class submarines, the silent service, for its great work and successful 1,000 missions.

I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 129.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 861) supporting the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 861

Whereas military families, through their sacrifices and their dedication to the United States and its values, represent the bedrock upon which the United States was founded and upon which the country continues to rely in these perilous and challenging times; and

Whereas the month of November, which includes the Veterans Day holiday, was declared by the President on October 30, 2009, to be Military Family Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Military Family Month;

(2) recognizes the sacrifices and dedication of military families and their contributions to the United States; and

(3) expresses the appreciation to the people of the United States who observed Military Family Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent for Members to have 5 legislative days in which to extend and modify their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would first like to recognize Congressman ROONEY from Florida for bringing this resolution to the floor. It is a very timely resolution and one that, while we recognize the importance of our military families all the time, we certainly want to have the opportunity to make it official, so to speak, for this Congress, this House of Representatives, to join in that recognition. So I thank Representative ROONEY for his efforts.

I also want to commend and thank President Obama for declaring November to be National Military Family Month as we support this resolution that will join in the goals and ideals that are set forth in this proclamation.

Madam Speaker, we know that our military families are dedicated but also face great challenges and difficulties. As our troops have faced repeated deployments and have gone back into the field more often than perhaps we would wish as they serve our country as we need for them to do, so much of the burden of this service falls back to the military family.

But the military families have responded in incredible ways. They unite around each other. They support each other. They help their single-parent families. They come together in a way not only to support themselves but to also support their family members that are deployed. It is not a surprise that this happens, because they are an extension of these men and women that serve our Nation so heroically.

So with this resolution, H. Res. 861, we simply want to recognize once again the work, the dedication, the sacrifice in how our military families come together and acknowledge this in a positive way from the U.S. House of Representatives.

I reserve my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. ROONEY. Thank you, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KISSELL, for managing this bill and for Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON for supporting the National Military Family Month resolution.

This resolution is about supporting our military families. We rightly give due credit time and time again in this Chamber to our service men and women who wear the uniform, especially now in a time of war. But this bill goes a step further in recognizing the spouses and the parents and the children of those men and women who serve our country.

As a former Army captain married to another Army captain, my wife and I met so many families at just two of our duty stations at Fort Hood, Texas, and

West Point, New York. The people that we came to know in the military were truly the best people we've ever met. The sacrifice of seeing a loved one off to war and waiting the days and months for their return, sending letters, waiting in the middle of the night for a phone call or an email just to hear that they're okay; the sacrifice of moving time and time again and town to town and duty station to duty station when other families set down roots much earlier; and, finally, the sacrifice of a mom and dad seeing their child putting on a uniform for the first time and marching at graduation and the pride that they feel, and sometimes even the sorrow of receiving a flag that draped their child's casket, this resolution honors them, moms and dads, the spouses, the children.

I urge Members to support this, and thank you for yielding, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KISSELL, and for supporting this bill.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I once again thank Representative ROONEY for bringing this resolution to the floor. And all of the ideals that he expressed, I thank him so much for.

I've had the opportunity to speak with many of our soldiers; and to a person, they tell me that if they just know their families are being taken care of, what a relief that is for them to concentrate on the duty that we're asking for them to perform in wherever the mission might be.

So once again, I ask for support for the resolution for a National Military Family Month, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 861, which recognizes the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month. And I want to commend Representative TOM ROONEY of Florida for sponsoring this legislation.

Twenty years ago, the week of Thanksgiving was deemed Military Family Week as part of the Great American Family Project. And in 1996, with the support of the Armed Services YMCA, Military Family Week was expanded into Military Family Month. And Military Family Month seeks to recognize the sacrifices of our military families and the things they do for our Nation each and every day.

□ 1100

As we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving during the month of November, it is important that we celebrate the critical role of the military family.

During a time of extended conflict, it is imperative not only that we stop and take time to acknowledge the dedications and sacrifices made by our military families every day, but also that we pause to recognize the strength, commitment, and courage of the military spouse and children of our men and women serving today.

Whether deployed overseas or training at home, the families of our servicemen and -women are the foundation of our military and proudly represent a keystone in a strong national defense. Even though this resolution commemorates 1 month of recognition for our military families, I believe our military families should be praised every day for their selfless service to America. I urge Members to vote in favor of this resolution and American military families.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleague from Virginia in recognizing that the service and dedication of our military families is not just a 1 month deal; it is something that occurs every day, and we should recognize that every day. I ask my colleagues to support the resolution, H. Res. 861.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 861, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month.

The families of those who serve our country on the front lines deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to faraway lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. The support given to our service men and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

The men and women of the United States armed services rely on the support and encouragement of their families as they strive to protect the liberties and freedoms we enjoy every day at home. From the service organizations that provide holiday gifts to the letter that a parent or sibling writes to a loved one deployed or stationed abroad, the love and support of our military families is paramount. The sacrifices performed by these families should never be forgotten or diminished because they represent the very foundation of the American spirit.

Let us also make certain that we remember those individuals who are in harm's way today in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice—we are forever grateful for your heroic acts and for your service to our nation.

The brave men, women, and families who have and continue to sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. These individuals represent our nation's finest qualities, and they must be treated with the utmost respect and honor. Recognizing the month of November as National Military Family Month is just one small token of our appreciation for the families and their sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters who labor steadfastly for the United States and its undying values of freedom and liberty for all. It is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces and their families.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the burden which military families bear, and honoring the importance of the sacrifices they

make. I strongly support H. Res. 861, designating the month of November, which includes the Veterans Day holiday, as an appropriate time to observe National Military Family Month. As a Member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I find this resolution to be of great significance, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Military families in my home State of Georgia have suffered the loss of 158 soldiers, 6 of whom were constituents in my district, as a result of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nationwide, military families have endured the loss of thousands of soldiers. We owe them our gratitude and recognition for their service. The men and women who serve in the Armed Forces are responsible for carrying out the invaluable task of keeping our country safe, and as they fulfill their duties at home and abroad, they rely, not only on the political support of fellow citizens, but also on the emotional support of their families. As we move forward with important military objectives in Iraq and Afghanistan, we should not forget this unseen, but crucial, support. Indeed, the dedication of military families represents what is finest about our country. And, with increasing military challenges, this resolution, honoring their commitment, will reaffirm the solidarity and unity that provides our country with strength and resolve as we pass through this time of trial.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 861, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT VETERANS

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 897) recognizing the importance of teaching elementary and secondary school students about the sacrifices that veterans have made throughout the history of the Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 897

Whereas veterans have made innumerable sacrifices for the freedom and welfare of the United States and people worldwide;

Whereas in 2008 there were over 23,000,000 veterans in the United States, but many elementary and secondary school students are not aware of the efforts veterans have made to protect our freedoms;

Whereas many elementary and secondary schools and teachers have held drives in re-

cent years to collect items to send to veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and families of such members;

Whereas fewer than half of the Nation's high school seniors have a basic knowledge of American history and the contributions veterans have made to the Nation's safety and security;

Whereas it is important for elementary and secondary school students to learn about the history of the Nation and the wars and missions veterans have participated in and sacrificed for; and

Whereas elementary and secondary schools across the Nation host Veterans Day programs to honor and educate students about the sacrifices veterans have made: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of teaching elementary and secondary school students, on Veterans Day and throughout the school year, about the sacrifices that veterans have made throughout the history of the Nation; and

(2) encourages elementary and secondary schools to engage students in learning about, and honoring, veterans and the sacrifices they have made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 897.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 897, and I thank my friend and colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) for offering this legislation. This resolution recognizes the importance of teaching elementary and secondary school students about the sacrifices veterans have made throughout our Nation's history.

Our country is built on the backbone of men and women who served in our Nation's military forces. Veterans from all across the Nation sacrifice their time, energy, and lives for freedoms that we sometimes take for granted. In 2008, there were over 23 million veterans in the United States, but much of our Nation's youth do not fully comprehend the commitment our soldiers undergo on a daily basis. Many times, veterans leave combat and reintegrate into society with extreme challenges: post-traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, drug abuse, and homelessness are just some of the afflictions our dear veterans face. However, there are a number of dedicated organizations that cater and focus direct attention to the needs of our veterans.

Last month, we commemorated our veterans on November 11 with Veterans Day. We remembered heroes for their fearlessness, their loyalty, and their

dedication. Their selfless sacrifices continue to inspire us today as we work to advance peace and extend freedom around the world.

We also remember and honor those who laid down their lives in freedom's defense. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for our benefit, and our country is forever indebted to our veterans for their courage and exemplary service.

But today, less than half of the Nation's high school seniors possess the basic knowledge of the contribution veterans have made to our Nation's safety and security, and because of this, I recognize the importance of teaching the sacrifices veterans have made for our Nation in the classroom.

Madam Speaker, I again want to support this resolution and to thank Representative GUTHRIE for bringing this resolution forward. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 897 recognizing the importance of teaching elementary and secondary school students about the sacrifices that veterans have made throughout the history of the Nation. Over the recent Veterans Day holiday, I was proud to attend many ceremonies and parades held across my district to honor our veterans. Through these events, and many others, students learn the important role past generations played in our Nation's history. We watch with admiration the accomplishments of our servicemen and -women, both past and present. And as we come upon another holiday season, we are thankful for their perseverance and dedication, and are again reminded how important our military, their families, and veterans are to our Nation's history and future.

I want to share one experience just a few weeks ago. We finished voting early, and I went for a walk around the Capitol on a beautiful fall day. As I was walking down the Mall, I walked past the World War II Memorial. I stood there, and there were older people looking at the Pacific side and the Atlantic side, and I was trying to think in my mind what they were thinking. Were they remembering a friend or colleague that didn't come back? A lot of them were sharing that experience with grandchildren or great-grandchildren. You could just see at the memorial the pride and the tears in our veterans.

As I continued to walk, I went down to the Korean war memorial, and that is one that my family has personal experience with. My uncle, 12 years before I was born, in 1952 was killed. And so my grandfather and grandmother always talked about the sacrifice of veterans, particularly losing their oldest son in the Korean war.

Then further along the Mall there is the memorial to Abraham Lincoln with